

NORTHSHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 417
King County, Washington
September 1, 1994 Through August 31, 1995

Schedule Of Federal Findings

1. District Officials Should Comply With Special Education Program Requirements

Our audit of the Special Education Grant Program (CFDA 84.027) (Superintendent of Public Instruction Award No. 30590) disclosed 101 student participants tested on January 26, 1995, had not been reviewed for reassessment by multi-disciplinary teams within the required three-year period. The reassessment process determines whether or not the student's eligibility in the program may continue.

Title 34 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR), Part 300. 534(b), states in part:

... an evaluation of a child ... is conducted every three years or more frequently if conditions warrant or if the child's parent or teacher requests an evaluation.

WAC 392-171-512 states in part:

Each identified student having a handicapping condition shall be reassessed ... by the multi-disciplinary team ... at a minimum, once every three years or more frequently if required by this chapter.

District officials indicate that over the past six years the district has had a significant increase (averaging over 10 percent annually) in special education enrollment. This required the focus of existing staff to be directed toward initial assessment. District officials felt this was critical to provide needed educational interventions to students in a timely manner.

District officials have implemented corrective action and improved procedures to monitor reassessments. Those students who did not have a current reassessment were removed from the count submitted to the state as of February 1996.

Student eligibility for the program is jeopardized when district officials neglect to conduct reassessment reviews within the required time frame. Failure to perform these reassessments could result in ineligible individuals receiving benefits under the program. District officials have improved reassessment procedures. Due to the nature of the program, we were unable to establish the amount of costs associated with the exceptions noted and, therefore, have not questioned costs related to this issue.

We recommend district officials reassess Special Education Program students in

compliance with federal and state regulations.

We further recommend district officials consult the Superintendent of Public Instruction in resolving this issue.